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Property

421 Although there were no defined tribal
423 boundaries, customary usage gave people the
feeling of ownership of certain land. It was
not the land but the produce and game available
on it which was the matter for concern. In
this way there was a sense of tribal property
or "home land." As individuals, women rather
than men felt ownership of those places where
they and their mothers had gathered seeds.
Families did not own land, nor did the captains.
According to the Tachi informant (M.G.) a woman
went to one place to gather seeds and her
daughters went to the same place. Another
woman would not come there without invitation,
but went to her own patch. If she trespassed,
a quarrel ensued. A stake (šo n:l) marked the
end of a woman's claim; a series of these
several feet apart might be set up to include
an area about forty feet square. Such plots
had no special name.³⁰ A woman had such a
special place for each type of seed. Her
daughters continued to use the plot after her
death; a sister might claim it if there were no
daughters. If there were no close female rela-
tives, M.G. thought it would be used by some
woman friend who belonged to the same moiety.

A young married woman returned to her
mother's plot to gather seeds. If it was too
far away, she remained at home to do the cook-
ing instead of going with her mother-in-law.
Her own mother would send or bring her food-
stuffs from time to time, but the mother-in-law
gave her nothing. The young woman cooked for
the entire family while her sisters-in-law went
with their mother to do the gathering. This,
[59] of course, was during patrilocal residence,
which was the customary home of newlyweds in
the lake area.

According to M.G., men did not own fishing
or hunting places even in the above sense (but
on this point a male informant's opinion is
needed). They went anywhere within tribal
[224] territory for game. Game was never sold, but
was often given to friends. Men gathered tule
roots more often than women, but whether the
men, like the women, had individual claims on
gathering places M.G. does not know.

SHELTER, SUBSISTENCE, UTENSILS, AND CRAFTS

Houses

342 No adequate description of houses was ob-
tained for the lake region. Two types were well
known, the long communal house and oval indi-
vidual house; but the gabled house pictured by

³⁰The informant insisted that this property marking
was a very old custom. The interpreter had never heard
the word for the marking stake until the older woman ex-
plained it to her, she claimed.